A fortnight is a unit of time equivalent to 14 days. The term derives from the Old English feorwertyne niht, meaning “fourteen nights.” Inspired by the opportunities and challenges of Middle States Standard 14 and the desire to share information and best practices, FORTNIGHT is a communication vehicle, which is distributed online to the campus community.

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT REPORT TEMPLATES UPDATED TO INCLUDE GENERAL EDUCATION GOALS

Annual Academic Assessment Activity Report templates have been in use on the campus since the 2009-2010 academic year. The templates have undergone numerous revisions, with each version passing through the Academic Outcomes Assessment Committee for review before being released.

While the templates initially placed an emphasis on course-based assessment reporting, they were modified last year to allow for reporting on activities such as seminars or internships as well as courses. This year, the templates have been modified further to include a section specifically about General Education assessment activity.

Since the General Education curriculum at the College is based on a set of overarching goals, the reporting of assessment activity also takes this approach. Departments and programs are asked to indicate which General Education goals they assessed this year, what their locus of assessment was (e.g. which course they assessed), and what method(s) they used – as well as what they learned from their activities.

Of course, General Education assessment can be reported using the same course(s) as reported in the rest of the form. The General Education courses offered by many departments and programs serve multiple purposes; for example, some students may use a particular course to fulfill major or pre-major requirements, while other students may use the same course as part of their General Education.

Any faculty members who have questions about the reporting templates should speak with their representative to the General Education Committee, the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, or the Academic Outcomes Assessment Committee, or contact the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment for guidance and discussion.

CLOSING THE LOOP: LIBRARY OFFERS ACADEMIC SUPPORT TUTORS DURING FINALS WEEK

When the Library began operating under extended hours during finals week several years ago, reference librarians on duty during the evenings noted that many students asked about the availability of Academic Support tutors. Hours for the Office of Academic Support (OAS) end at 10pm, while the Library stays open until midnight during this critical
time. The Library passed this information on to OAS, and the Director of OAS and the Chief Librarian began discussing ways to address the students’ needs. Parameters of the project, including hours, types of tutors and use of facilities, were established at this point.

Rather than keep the entire Office of Academic Support open for these extended hours, OAS then began a trial program during Fall 2012 under the leadership of Assistant Director Jason Turetsky. Academic Support tutors from a variety of disciplines held hours in the Library after the OAS closed. Numbers of requests for tutor services were monitored, along with the particular types of tutoring that were sought.

Based on the information gathered during this pilot, the program is being repeated this semester with tutors in mathematics and English and use of the tutor services will again be monitored. This program is just one example of Jason’s high level of consideration of students’ needs. Its success is a small indication of the College’s great loss with his untimely passing.

CAMPUS UPDATES

Academic Program Reviews – The College of Staten Island continued its active academic program review process by hosting several external evaluator visits in recent weeks. On Friday, May 3, 2013, the Modern China Studies program welcomed Dr. Mark Selden, Senior Research Associate with the East Asia Program at Cornell University, and Dr. Jonathan Schwartz, Coordinator of the Asian Studies Program at SUNY-New Paltz. Dr. Cary Karacas, Assistant Professor of Geography and Director of the Modern China Studies program, organized the self-study process and chaired the visit. The College extends its appreciation to Dr. Karacas and the faculty in this interdisciplinary program.

The School of Business completed two self-studies this year. On Monday, April 29, 2013, Dr. Michael Szenberg, Distinguished Professor of Economics and Chairperson in the Department of Finance and Economics at the Lubin School of Business, Pace University, and Dr. Donna Narducci, Associate Dean and Director of Business Programs of the Peter J. Tobin College of Business, St. John’s University, visited the College as evaluators for the Master’s of Science in Business Management. On Monday, May 6, 2013, Professor Boadnarine Bharosay, Chair of the Department of Accounting and Business at York College, and Professor Robert DeFilippis, Chair of the Department of Accounting at Fairleigh Dickinson University, reviewed both the graduate and undergraduate Accounting degree programs. Professor Dorothy Lang was instrumental in overseeing the compilation and revisions of the self-study documents, and many faculty teaching in both programs contributed to the self-studies. On behalf of the College, we express our appreciation to Professor Lang and the faculty and staff who participated in these evaluation processes.

Annual Assessment Activity Reports – The Academic Assessment Activity Reports for academic year 2012-2013 are due in mid-June, after faculty have been able to examine the work that students produced in their classes. These templates are essential for documenting ongoing engagement with the assessment of student learning for all Middle States actions, including the Monitoring Report due on December 1 this year, and the Periodic Review Report which will be due on June 1, 2017. The reporting template can be downloaded from the Assessment Resources section of the College Assessment website at www.library.csi.cuny.edu/assessment/resources.html.

FORTNIGHTLY NOTES

Research Fortnight is a, independent source of news, analysis, funding opportunities and jobs for the academic research community in the United Kingdom. Available every two weeks in print and daily online, Research Fortnight has been published continuously since 1994.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to submit items related to departmental assessment projects, College institutional effectiveness activities, committee announcements, and best practices by June 3, 2013, for consideration to appear in the next communiqué.